



The Artifice of Ancestry: Canadian Universities' Recognition of Indigeneity and Its Policy Consequences

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When Canadian universities responded to the TRC, two major pathways were open to most of them: they could have removed barriers for Indigenous faculty, staff and students to make campuses more “welcoming places” and/or they could have built stronger and more strategic relationships with Indigenous nations, communities, and organizations. Most large research universities chose the former and in doing so, effectively exacerbated pre-existing “ethnic mobility” trends in which faculty, staff and students largely unconnected to extended family and community were making claims to Indigeneity in the academy. This presentation will explore the ways in which the liberal ecosystem of recognition, with its over-reliance on “self-identification” and “ancestry” as primary markers of Indigenous identity claims, continues to shape conversations and debates about Indigeneity in the academy in unhelpful and even dangerous ways.

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2:00–3:30 pm

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A Virtual Presentation

Details to be provided